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Employment assistance, common-sense tax relief designed to help make ends meet and get people back to work

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) is pleased to announce a \$2,409,877 grant from U.S. Department of Labor to assist approximately 815 workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closures at 11 companies across three regions (Ozark, Southeast, South Central) in southern Missouri including Ste. Genevieve County.

The Southeast Workforce Investment Region includes Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, and Stoddard counties. Congressman Russ Carnahan represents Ste. Genevieve County in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Workers affected include those employed in industries such as distribution, manufacturing and telecommunications. The initial release for this grant will be funded by resources made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 supported by Congressman Carnahan.

"Missouri is experiencing record-high unemployment. This assistance helps train people for jobs of the future." said Congressman Carnahan. "Another form of relief we can offer those struggling to make ends meet is to put money into people's pockets. The tax cuts implemented last week are aimed at working people who are being squeezed by rising costs and stagnating wages."

Today's grant will be awarded to the Missouri Division of Workforce Development, which will provide affected workers with a full array of employment-related services. Services will include skills assessment, training and job search assistance. Under this grant, workers also eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) will be provided with access to these "wrap-around" services not covered under the TAA program.

"In addition to short-term assistance to those in need, the Recovery also makes real investments in our nation's long-term economic success by investing in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure," said Carnahan.

Of the \$2,409,877 announced today, \$1,874,130 will be released initially. Additional funding up

to the amount approved will be made available as the state demonstrates a continued need for assistance.

For more information about National Emergency Grants, visit www.doleta.gov/NEG .

The Making Work Pay tax credit provides a refundable tax credit of 6.2 percent of earned income up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for married taxpayers for 2009 and 2010. It also gives 2.2 million Missouri families at least a \$65 dollar per month increase in their take home pay.

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